

Commissioner for Patents
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Serial No.: 09/745,483

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Specification

The abstract was objected to because it included language that was not clear and concise. The abstract is amended to eliminate such language and the objection is traversed.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 9 because there was no period at the end of the claim. Claim 9 is amended to correct the defect and the objection is traversed.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 12-13 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Wordemann. Claim 1 is cancelled and the subject matter thereof incorporated in amended claim 3. Claim 2 is amended to depend from amended claim 3. The rejection of claims 1-2, 4, and 12-13 is thereby traversed.

Claim 18 is likewise cancelled and the subject matter thereof incorporated in claim 20. Claim 19 is amended to depend from claim 20. The rejection of claims 18 and 19 is thereby traversed.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner is informed that pursuant to Applicant's obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 each claim in the application was commonly owned at the time the invention was made.

The Office Action rejected claim 5-6 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wordemann in view of Iggulden.

Claims 5-6 and 10-11 depend from amended claim 3, deemed allowable. The rejection of claims 5-6 and 10-11 is thereby traversed.

The Office Action rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wordemann in view of Deluca. Claim 7 likewise depends from amended claim 3 and the rejection of claim 7 is thereby traversed.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 3, 8-9, 14-17 and 20-22 would be allowable if written in independent form. As noted above, the claims have been amended accordingly. The claims have also been carefully reviewed and amended to ensure proper antecedent for all terms and to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-17 and 19-22 which remain pending in this application are in a condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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